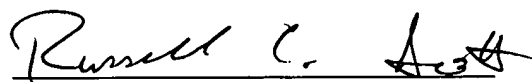


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and clarifying amendments, and for various other reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-17 present allowable subject matter, and a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited. If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after entry of this Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: September 6, 2000



By: Russell C. Scott

Reg. No.: 43,103

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, Texas 78701
Tel: (512) 499-6200
Fax: (512) 499-6290